

ARB STAFF'S SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CARFG3 REGULATIONS

A. CHANGES PERTAINING TO THE REDUCTION OF THE CaRFG3 SULFUR CAP LIMIT FROM 60 PPM TO 30 PPM

This modification postpones, by one year, the date for the reduction of the CaRFG3 sulfur content cap limit from 60 parts per million (ppm) to 30 ppm to make it consistent with the proposed one-year delay for implementation of the other CaRFG3 gasoline specifications. Staff had intended to propose a one-year postponement of the applicable dates of all CaRFG3 cap limit compliance requirements to be consistent with the proposed one-year delay of the prohibition of MTBE. However, due to an oversight, the date for the reduction of the sulfur cap limit from 60 ppm to 30 ppm was left unchanged in the proposed regulation text.

B. CHANGES TO START OF THE RVP REGULATORY CONTROL PERIOD FOR PRODUCTION AND IMPORT FACILITIES IN THE SOUTH COAST FOR THE INITIAL TRANSITION FROM MTBE TO ETHANOL GASOLINE

The current CaRFG3 regulations delay the start of the 2003 RVP regulatory control season in the South Coast by one month to allow production and import facilities flexibility to make the transition from MTBE gasoline to ethanol gasoline and comply with RVP standards. In the proposed amendments to the CaRFG3 regulations, staff proposed to postpone the applicability of this one-time delay to 2004 to maintain that flexibility and make the date consistent with the one-year postponement of the MTBE phase-out. With this modification, staff is proposing to provide this flexibility to production and import facilities that comply with the original phase-out schedule.

C. CHANGE TO THE WINTERTIME OXYGEN REQUIREMENT FOR THE SOUTH COAST

In the CaRFG3 rulemaking, the ARB eliminated the October oxygen requirement in the South Coast area after 2002 based on a demonstration that by that time the requirement would no longer be needed to assure that attainment of the federal carbon monoxide standard is maintained in that month. October is the one month in which the summertime Reid vapor pressure standards and the wintertime oxygen requirements have overlapped. While it is less important to avoid this overlap if there is not yet an effective ethanol mandate, retaining the original phase-out of the October oxygen requirement after 2002 will provide useful flexibility for refiners, especially those who have decided to stop using MTBE sooner than will be required under the proposed amendments in this rulemaking. After the April 24, 2002 workshop, staff had intended to propose no change to the phase-out of the October oxygen requirement in the preexisting regulations, but left the date change in the proposed regulation text due to an oversight.